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Kearsley Urban District Council

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Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

1962

R. SYDNEY DAVIDSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
M.O.H.

F. BROOK, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
Public Health Inspector.

Kearsley Urban District Council

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Councillor T. A. PILKINGTON

Vice-Chairman:

Councillor E. HOWARD, J.P.

Members:

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„ J. WALKER

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health

R. SYDNEY DAVIDSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector F. BROOK, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Clerk Miss M. LINGARD

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

To the Chairman and Members of the Kearsley Urban District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I present the annual report of the health of the urban district for the year 1962.

VITAL STATISTICS

The Death Rate of 16.1 is the highest recorded since 1951 and is much higher than the rate of 11.9 for England and Wales. The Birth Rate of 15.8 is below those of the two previous years and the Infantile Mortality Rate of 42.7 is much too high for any civilised community today.

There were 143 deaths during the year and the principal causes together with the Deaths, Births, Infantile Mortality and Still Birth Rates are given in Table I. There are less deaths due to Heart Disease and Coronary Thrombosis, and the severe winter of December 1961 and January of this year exacted its toll among the older people as Table II shows. Of the 21 deaths from Cancer, one third of these were from Cancer of the Lung and this despite extensive propaganda.

TABLE I.

YEAR	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962
Death Rate	12.7	14.0	15.1	12.8	15.7	15.2	14.3	13.5	15.5	16.1
Birth Rate	15.3	15.6	10.7	16.2	13.5	16.0	13.5	17.2	16.1	15.8
Infantile Mortality Rate ...	25.0	37.0	0.0	30.0	57.0	12.0	21.4	22.5	36.1	42.7
Still Birth Rate	24.0	24.0	18.0	29.0	34.0	29.2	14.1	16.6	6.0	12.0
Causes of Death:										
Heart Disease	(26) 48	(16) 44	(13) 45	(14) 38	(17) 57	(25) 42	(20) 37	(30) 47	(18) 40	(10) 27
Cancer	(4) 23	(3) 19	(7) 26	(3) 11	(3) 18	(5) 25	(8) 23	(4) 20	(5) 18	(7) 21
Vascular lesions of nervous system	12	24	24	14	26	25	25	13	16	27
Bronchitis	12	16	17	12	6	4	6	7	10	5
Pneumonia	3	3	2	3	2	5	7	4	2	8

The figures in brackets are those of Coronary Thrombosis and Lung Cancer.

TABLE II.

DEATHS OF PEOPLE AGED 65 YEARS AND OVER

	65—70	71—75	76—80	81—85	Over 85	Total
January	4	2	2	4	3	15
February	1	2	1	—	—	4
March	—	2	—	1	—	3
April	1	3	2	3	—	9
May	—	1	2	—	—	3
June	—	—	—	—	—	—
July	—	1	3	—	1	5
August	1	—	—	—	1	2
September	1	—	1	—	1	3
October	—	4	1	1	1	7
November	1	—	2	2	2	7
December	6	3	3	—	1	13
TOTALS	<u>15</u> =	<u>18</u> =	<u>17</u> =	<u>11</u> =	<u>10</u> =	<u>71</u> ==

It is difficult to dissuade the well established chain smoker to give up a habit he has nurtured for years, but it is possible, though difficult, to influence the mind of the young teenager.

This is an age when stage, screen and television suggest the hall mark of sophistication as whisky, or gin and something and a cigarette. The young teenager is an impressionable being and propaganda to combat this influence must set out to destroy this false picture of sophistication. Famous footballers, athletes, pop singers, actors and cinema stars who do not smoke and who were shown on short television interviews, in magazines or newspaper advertisements and on hoardings stating that they do not smoke would be the most effective way of influencing the young mind. A Stanley Matthews or an Adam Faith could do more than a physician and his stethoscope issuing solemn warnings.

It is excessive smoking which is the danger and cigarettes the most dangerous.

There were more deaths from Pneumonia this year and again the weather and often old age in combination must be held responsible.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

It is pleasing to see the absence of Whooping Cough. If immunisation is maintained for all children, Whooping Cough will join Diphtheria in the realms of forgotten diseases.

HEALTH OF THE COMMUNITY

In the urban district there has been for many years a freedom from severe epidemic diseases. Life in England today is fitter, healthier and more pleasant than our forebears found it except perhaps in the weather.

STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area—1,728 statute acres (approx.).

Population—Estimated June, 1962—10,410.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

Births:						Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	164	89	75
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	13	9	4

Still Births:								
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	—
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—

						Kearsley	England & Wales
Birth Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	...	15.8	18.0
Still Births per 1,000 total births	...	...	...	...	...	12.0	18.1

						Total	Males	Females
Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	143	72	71

						Kearsley	England & Wales
Death Rate per 1,000 population (adjusted)	...	...	...	...	...	16.1	11.9

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth Nil

Deaths of Infants under one year of age:

						Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	7	3	4
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—

						Kearsley	England & Wales
Infantile Mortality Rate for 1,000	...	...	...	...	...
live births	...	...	...	...	...	42.7	21.4

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1962

Vascular lesions of Nervous System	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Heart Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Hypertension with Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Cancer of lung and bronchus	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Leukaemia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
All other accidents	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

143

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following is a list of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year 1962:—

Disease	No.
Scarlet Fever	2
Dysentery	10
Measles	22
Pneumonia (all forms)	8

Cases removed to Hospital from the district:—

Pneumonia	3
Sonne Dysentery	2
Measles	1

Tuberculosis—Cases Notified:—

Respiratory	4
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The treatment of all cases of tuberculosis is undertaken by the County Council.

FOOD POISONING

During the year there were two cases of Food Poisoning reported.

SCARLET FEVER

Two cases of Scarlet Fever were reported during the year, and both of these were nursed at home.

DIPHThERIA

For the sixteenth year in succession there were no cases of Diphtheria.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

The bacteriological examination of sputum is undertaken by the Lancashire Tuberculosis Committee.

The bacteriological examination of milk and water samples and of pathological specimens is carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Bolton Royal Infirmary.

WATER SUPPLY

The greater part of the water supply to the Urban area is from the Bolton Corporation. This is a direct and constant supply and is sufficient in quantity and quality.

The Irwell Valley Water Board supplies the area of Prestolee and Ringley with a direct and constant supply and this is sufficient in quantity and quality.

There are four houses, with a population of 12, in the outlying district known as Giant’s Seat, dependent on well water, which is not a connected supply.

The following is a summary of results of bacteriological examinations, chemical analyses, etc., supplied by Bolton Corporation Water Works Department and Irwell Valley Water Board: —

	Bolton Corporation	Irwell Valley Water Board
No. of bacteriological examinations of raw water	98	Nil
Results	Satisfactory with treatment	Nil
No. of chemical analyses	8	Nil
Results	Satisfactory	--
Water going into supply where treatment is installed :—		
No. of bacteriological examinations	101	42
Results	Satisfactory	40 Satisfactory 2 Unsatisfactory
No. of chemical analyses	8	3
Results	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
Action taken in respect of any form of contamination	Action not necessary	All water chlorinated
Liability to plumbo-solvent action	From tests made weekly the water was shown to have no plumbo-solvent action.	Yes, a little
Analyses of plumbo-solvent action	—	27
Results	—	Mainly satisfactory Precautions— Water Lime-treated.

HOUSING

Private enterprise built 9 houses and one flat during the year. There is not in the urban district an acute shortage of housing accommodation, and the housing list is now mainly composed of people desiring houses better placed and with better amenities than those which they at present occupy.

There are only 70 houses to be dealt with to complete the slum clearance programme compiled in 1955.

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

				Houses	Flats
(1)	By the local authority	...	...	—	—
(2)	By other local authorities	...	...	—	—
(3)	By other bodies or persons	...	...	9	1

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:—

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	31
	(b)	No. of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose	... ..	62
(2)		Dwelling-houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit:—		
		No. found during the year	...	—
(3)		No. of dwelling-houses found during the year to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit	...	29

2. Houses Demolished:—

In Clearance Areas:—

	Houses Demolished	Displaced during year Persons Families
(1) Houses unfit for human habitation	2	49 17
(2) Houses included by bad arrangement, etc.	—	— —
(3) Houses on land acquired under Section 43 (2) Housing Act, 1957	—	— —
Not in Clearance Areas:—		

(4) As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17(1) Housing Act, 1957	1	5 1
--	---	-----

3. Unfit Houses Closed:—

Number

(1) Under Section 16(4), 17(1), and 35(1) Housing Act, 1957	2	9 2
(2) Under Sections 17(3) and 26 Housing Act, 1957	—	— —
(3) Parts of buildings closed under Section 18 Housing Act, 1957 ...	—	— —

4. Unfit Houses Made Fit and Houses in which Defects were remedied:—

	By Owner	By Local Authority
(1) After informal action by local authority ...	29	—
(2) After formal notice under		
(a) Public Health Acts	—	—
(b) Sections 9 and 16 Housing Act, 1957	—	—
(3) Under Section 24 Housing Act, 1957 ...	—	—

5. Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958 and House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959—

Improvement Grants, etc. :—

Action during the year :—

	Schemes of Private Bodies or individuals	Schemes of of Local Authority
(a) Submitted by private individuals to local authority	—	—
(b) No. of dwelling houses or other buildings affected	—	—
(c) Submitted by local authority to Ministry	—	—
(d) Work completed	—	—
(e) Any other action taken under the Acts (Give brief particulars)	—	—

The Council also makes loans under the above provisions for the construction, acquisition, improvement and repair of houses.

6. Housing Conditions :—

Approximately 33 per cent, of the houses in Kearsley may be classed as old, 19 per cent, as medium and 48 per cent. as modern.

There are only a few families in lodgings who really need housing.

Particulars of any housing scheme—

(i) In hand at end of year :—

18 Bungalows.

NOTICES

Twenty-four preliminary notices were served during the year.

HOUSE REFUSE SCAVENGING

Statement showing the number of receptacles emptied during the year :—

Ashbins	...	...	...	...	190,698
Pails	...	...	...	...	368
Total loads removed	...	...	...	...	2,721

The refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping at Singing Clough Tip. This method continues to be most satisfactory.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

The sanitary accommodation of the district at the end of the year was as follows:—

Fresh water closets	...	...	...	3,752
Waste water closets	...	...	...	44
Ashbins	...	...	...	3,948
Pails	...	...	...	7
Privy middens	...	...	...	1
Privy closets	...	...	...	1

SALVAGE

The collection and sale of salvage continues to be successful. During the year under review the combined weight of salvage collected was 171 tons 2 cwts. 3 qtrs., made up as follows:—

	T.	C.	Q.
Waste Paper
Kitchen Waste
Miscellaneous

The total value was £1,099.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Drainage is partly on the combined and partly on the separate system. The following summary shows how the sewage is dealt with:—

Sewage Works.	Method of Treatment.
Clammerclough	Detritus tanks, precipitation tanks, percolating filters, humus tanks and storm tanks.
Main Outfall, Kearsley Green ...	Detritus tanks, precipitation tanks, percolating filters, humus tanks and storm tanks.
Ringley	Detritus tanks, precipitation tanks, percolating filters, humus tanks and storm tanks.
Prestolee	Detritus tanks, aeration tanks, humus tanks and storm tanks.

At Horridge Brook and Unity Brook the sewage is lifted by automatic ejectors into sewers connected with the Main Outfall Works.

The Bolton and District Joint Sewerage Board is still working on the construction of a new Sewage Works.

ICE CREAM

There are now 45 shops in the urban district registered for the sale of ice cream.

Twelve samples of ice cream were procured and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Bolton Royal Infirmary, for bacteriological examination, and the results were satisfactory.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

During the year the following food was found to be unfit for human consumption, and was voluntarily surrendered by the owners:—

Flour, 70lbs.
Frozen Egg, 14lbs.
Tinned Ham, 11½lbs.

ADULTERATION OF FOOD

The County Council is the authority under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act.

A total of 50 samples was obtained during the year, 29 being of milk and 21 others comprising :

1 Sugar	1 Tincture of iodine
1 Glycerine B.P.	2 Liquid paraffin B.P.
1 Penicillin V tablets	1 Penicillin tablets B.P.
1 Bread	1 Butter
1 Ice Cream	1 Salmon paste
1 Laxative tablets	1 Travel sickness tablets
1 Aspirin tablets	1 Ammoniated mercury ointment
1 Tea	1 Honey
1 Sweets	1 Ground spice
2 Fruit, canned	

I give below details of those samples upon which the County Analyst gave adverse reports :—

Type of Sample	Result of Analysis	Action taken
1 Penicillin V tablets	Sample consisted of Penicillin V 250 ml. tablets and not 125 ml. tablets as prescribed.	Vendor communicated with
1 Formal milk	Freezing point indicated presence of 0.6% extraneous water.	Vendor cautioned and further sample obtained.
1 Fruit, canned	Descending quantitative order of ingredients found was " Pears, Apricots, Peaches, Pineapple, Cherries " compared with " Peaches, Pears, Apricots, Pineapple, Cherries " declared in the list of ingredients.	Packers communicated with.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND BAKEHOUSES

During the year twenty visits were paid to factories and workplaces, and thirty-nine visits to Bakehouses.

The premises were in a satisfactory condition.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

There was one case of bed bugs found during the year.

RODENT CONTROL

One man is engaged solely on this work.

Two sewer maintenance treatments have been carried out during the year.

The following action relating to rodent control has also been carried out:—

	Type of Property		
	Non-agricultural		Agricultural
	Dwelling Houses	All Other	
(a) No of properties in the district	3,526	662	12
(b) No. of properties inspected ...	1,270	395	12
(c) Total inspections carried out (incl. re-inspections)	2,159	395	12
(d) No. of properties inspected which were found to be in- fested by: .			
Rats—major	—	—	—
Rats—minor	41	43	—
Mice—major	—	—	—
Mice—minor	62	35	—
(e) No. of infested properties treated	121	135	—
(f) Total treatments carried out (incl. re-treatments)	121	135	—
(g) No. of 'Block' control schemes carried out	—	—	—

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE IN THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

1st January, 1962, to 31st December, 1962.

Visits to Infectious Diseases	2
Visits to Property Under Notice	271
Visits to Factories and Workplaces	20
Visits to Bakehouses	39
Visits to Shops	20
Interviews with Owners, Builders, Architects, etc.	54
Inspections of Drains, etc., and Works in Progress	34
General visits—no nuisances	1,056
Smoke Control Area	230
	<hr/>
	1,726
	<hr/>

I am grateful for the help and encouragement of the Health Committee and for the loyal co-operation of the staff of the Health and other departments.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

R. SYDNEY DAVIDSON.

Medical Officer of Health.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 to 1959

PART I OF THE ACT

1—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Inspection (3)	Numbers of	
			Written notices (4)	Occu- piers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	69	49	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	21	10	Nil	Nil
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	90	59	Nil	Nil

2—Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	4	4	Nil	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding (S. 2)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(c) Not separate for sexes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total ...	4	4	Nil	Nil	Nil

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Out-work

(Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out- workers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecu- tions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwhole- some premises	Notices served	Prosecu- tions
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

